

# Dulles' Second Thoughts Keep Press Uncertain

By JAMES MARLOW  
Associated Press News Analyst

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The best way for a newsmen to be sure he knows what Secretary of State Dulles means to say is to get it in writing.

Mr. Dulles' stenographers take down every word he says at a news conference, type it and give him a copy. He then edits and changes his words to suit himself.

Thus newsmen who heard him say one thing, sometimes read in the transcript of his remarks that he said something else. This happened again at yesterday's news conference.

He told newsmen Dag Hammarskjöld, United Nations Secretary General, had made substantial progress in his talks with Egyptian President Nasser.

For some reason Mr. Dulles had second thoughts and decided to soft-pedal the progress angle. In the transcript he changed substantial progress to "some progress."

## Change of Tenses

This practice brought him into stiff argument with newsmen last fall when, at his October 2, 1956, news conference, he was asked about a reported split be-

tween the United States and its British and French allies.

He said "there is some difference." This language put the difference in the present tense, giving it the appearance of something still going on.

But he edited to put the difference in the past tense by knocking out the verb "is" and saying "there has been some difference."

He also spoke of some differences on "fundamental things" but in the transcript changed this to have him saying "our approach is not always identical."

At his next conference, October 16, newsmen objected to this editing job, asked him to let the transcript quote him on

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the language he had actually used.

He said: "No. . . I must reserve the right in case I make a blunder inadvertently which does damage to international relations to correct these blun-

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## Interview Stirs Storm

Reporters who get exclusive interviews with Dulles—such as two reporters from Time and Life magazines have had in the past 16 months—might have less worry about corrections later if they had Mr. Dulles read and correct their copy before they published it.

In January, 1956, Life magazine carried a piece on the Secretary by Time's Washington bureau chief, James Shepley. It was based on a personal interview and caused a storm in the Capital.

Mr. Shepley quoted Mr. Dulles as saying "the ability to get to the verge of war without getting into war is the necessary art." This statement, now famous, became known among Mr. Dulles' critics as the "art of brinkmanship."

Did Mr. Dulles really say what Mr. Shepley said he did? Mr. Dulles was asked at a news conference. He didn't deny it, ex-

actly. He said the quotation was "substantially" accurate but "I would never myself have expressed myself in quite that way for publication."

Mr. Dulles also explained he had not reviewed this highly laudatory article by Mr. Shepley.

Now another Time man—its diplomatic reporter, John Robinson (Jack) Beal—has written a whole biography on Mr. Dulles, also highly laudatory.

Other reporters got advance copies of it and at yesterday's news conference asked Mr. Dulles about two Beal statements which raised eyebrows in Washington, particularly in Congress.

Mr. Beal wrote that the Secretary's withdrawal last year of aid for the Aswan Dam was intended to expose the Russian economic offensive as a phony and that President Eisenhower had sent Nationalist China's President Chiang Kai-shek a "secret, personal letter."

Mr. Dulles threw down both statements.